"All the News That's UNFIT to Print"

Joachim Joesten's

TRUTH LETTER

An Antidote to Official Mendacity and Newsfaking in the Press

Vol. III, No. 20 | 7890 Gutenburg, Germany | July 1,1971

Editorial: LBJ's Austin Monument to the Big Lie Is Already Falling Apart.

Open Letter to the NEW YORK TIMES

This is the hour of The New York Times. The whole world admires and acclaims you. As one Swiss paper put it, "Every country needs a New York Times."

That's fine, that's splendid. I agree. You deserve all the kudos in the world for your exposé of the Pentagon's provocations and LBJ's duplicity. But - while you have consistently told the truth about Vietnam, you have just as consistently refused to tell your readers the truth about what made that war possible: the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The Dallas coup d'etat and the horrors of Vietnam are intimately linked. As long as John F. Kennedy was alive, there could have been no escalation of the war on the scale desired by Lyndon Johnson, the military and the CIA. So they got him out of their way on their road to glory.

You have known all along that the Oswald story was a hoax, the Warren Report a fraud and a coverup - and you have connived. Did that complicity ever weigh on your conscience?

It is not too late yet to make up for past errors and omissions. This is your hour and you should use it fully. You have the means and resources to find out the true facts about the JFK assassination and how they relate to Vietnam. You have the power and the prestige to make them public. Will you have the courage?

(Reproduction permitted)

More Secret Censorship

The day Jim Garrison's "A Heritage of Stone" was published (Nov. 16, 1970), Mrs. C.S., a TRUTH LETTER reader on the West Coast, ordered a copy from a Pickwick book store, the Pickwick chain being just about the largest chain in Southern California. She paid cash in advance for her copy, and then waited for delivery. She is still waiting.

After several futile complaints, the frustrated called the bookstore again and, in her own words, "was quite irate about it." Then she writes, "Once again the clerk looked up the order and told me merely that the book had not been received. At this point I asked for a refund of my money and for a check to be sent to my home. The clerk wasn't sure this was possible so told me to hang on while she consulted the manager, which I did. She then put the question to a man, and both their voices were audible to me. When she asked about the Garrison book, he said, 'We are cooperating and not stocking it. You can refund the money.' I received the refund in the following day's mail. So there you have it."

With whom was that craven bookstore manager "cooperating" when he refused to sell a prepaid copy of a book written by a district attorney and published by one of the most respected publishing houses in America? With whom? The FBI, of course! They have long made it a practice to discourage the purchase of unorthodox books about the assassination of President Kennedy, beginning with my own "Oswald: Assassin or Fall Guy?" ~~fixm~~ seven years ago. This is freedom of the press in America today.

New York Times, where are you?

2

The Wolfer Incident

I was just about to go into the obviously fraudulent investigative tactics of the LAPD's ballistics expert DeWayne A. Wolfer, who juggled bullets and "booked as evidence" a bullet he did not have, when a new scandal involving this singularly crooked police officer and his handling of the RFK assassination case broke in the news. The AP, on May 29, 1971, sent out several dispatches about it from Los Angeles, but missed some of the most important elements of the story, purposely no doubt. A detailed account of the matter, however, appeared in the Los Angeles Times of May 29 under the headline: "Expert Criticized - Errors Charged in Kennedy Gun Probe," which one of my readers on the West Coast kindly forwarded to me.

Wolfer, it seems, was on the point of being handsomely rewarded for his contribution to the coverup, when misfortune befell him from an unexpected quarter. A local attorney, Mrs. Barbara Warner Blehr, acting on behalf of criminalist William W. Harper of Pasadena, on May 28 addressed a four-page letter to the Civil Service Commission in an effort to block Wolfer's appointment as permanent head of the LAPD crime laboratory. In this letter, Mrs. Blehr, besides charging Wolfer with errors and violations of procedure in other criminal cases (notably the Jack Kirschke and Doyle A. Terry murder cases), laid violations of four separate precepts of investigative procedure in the Kennedy investigation at his door.

The lawyer's most serious charge was that Wolfer, in his test-firings, never actually fired the revolver that had been wrested from Sirhan's grip. Instead he test-fired an altogether different gun which, in fact, did match at least three bullets recovered from the bodies of other victims in the affray. With her letter to the Commission, Mrs. Blehr sent six photos and three affidavits, signed by criminalists LeRoyne Snyder, Raymond A. Pinker and Walter Jack Cadman, supporting her contentions.

Two of the photos are of exhibit 55 from the Sirhan trial. That is an envelope containing three bullets purportedly fired from Sirhan's gun, but also bearing, in Wolfer's handwriting, the notation that Sirhan's revolver had the serial number H 18602. According to the trial records, however, the gun taken from Sirhan bore the serial number H 53725.

A clear case of police skulduggery, then. But there is more. I now quote textually from the story in the L.A. Times: "The test shots were made on June 6, 1968, and a third photograph is of a message from the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation in Sacramento, noting that gun number H 18602 - the one identified in testimony as the gun used in the ballistics tests - was destroyed by the LAPD (emphasis mine - J.J.) sometime in July, 1968, only a month after the murder of Kennedy."

And, it should be added, many months before the Sirhan case came to trial. When the police goes to the extremes of destroying material evidence of the highest importance - and in this case it's really in the official record - there cannot be the slightest doubt that it is guilty of massive fraud and perversion of justice.

"The only possible conclusion that must be reached," Mrs. Blehr stated in her letter, "is that two similar guns were being fired at the scene of the crime. Such a conclusion then leads unavoidably to the question: which of the two guns fired the single fatal bullet?"

Interestingly, the L.A. Times, which so far has not exactly been in the forefront of the battle for the truth about the Robert Kennedy assassination - much less the JFK assassination - gives cautious support to the views expressed by the lawyer:

"Mrs. Blehr's charges raise the question of whether a second gunman might have fired shots in the Ambassador Hotel pantry on June 5, 1968, and then escaped unnoticed as Sirhan Bishara Sirhan was tackled by friends of the mortally wounded senator."

(to be continued in the next issue)

Needless to say, "gray brown rectangular structures measuring approximately 13 x 20 mm" do not normally grow in human brains. The panelists were justly baffled by this unexpected discovery and they clearly indicate their bewilderment with the statement that "its identity cannot be established by The Panel." What is forensic science for if it stops, in a murder case of such outstanding importance, at identifying a foreign object in a bullet-shattered brain?

Dr. John Nichols of the University of Kansas Medical Center expressly states in his "Memorandum Brief" of Oct. 12, 1970 in support of his lawsuit against the U.S. Government (see TRUTH LETTER, Vol. III, No. 4 and following issues) that he "wants to identify this object." There is a scientific way, then, to do this and it follows that the four panelists, while claiming that they could not identify the gray brown rectangular structure, in fact did not want to do so. They must have sensed, too, what Dr. Nichols suspects, namely that this mysterious object might be "a fragment of an explosive missile of a type heretofore not considered." In other words, a piece of a bullet with characteristics that would rule out any possibility of its having been fired from Oswald's rifle.

In this connection, it is worthy of note that District Attorney Jim Garrison and other authorities have voiced the suspicion that at least one of the several bullets that did in fact strike President Kennedy's head almost simultaneously was a dum-dum. In his famous Playboy interview of October 1967, Garrison said:

"Some of the gunmen appear to have used frangible bullets, a variant of the dumdum bullet that is forbidden by the Geneva Treaty. Frangible bullets explode on impact into tiny fragments, as did the bullet that caused the fatal wound in the President's head. Of course, frangible bullets are ideal in a political assassination because they almost guarantee massive damage and assure that no tangible evidence will remain that ballistics experts could use to trace the murder weapon. I might also mention that frangible bullets cannot be fired from a Mannlicher-Carcano, such as the Commission concludes Oswald used to kill the President. Also, parenthetically, this type of bullet was issued by the CIA for use in anti-Castro-exile raids on Cuba."

Again, parenthetically, less than a year after Garrison had thus put the finger on the CIA as being responsible for the spread of political assassination by means of dumdum bullets, the President's brother, Robert Kennedy, was murdered in identical fashion as will be detailed in subsequent issues of TL as we come to the "gory" details of the Noguchi autopsy report which Judge Walker would not allow in evidence at the Sirhan trial. No wonder, for in both Kennedy assassinations the fatal bullet, which in both these cases was not fired by the ostensible assassin, had been issued to the real killers by the CIA from its plentiful stocks of illicit murder weapons.

Further confirmation of the above-said can be found in Mark Lane's Rush to Judgment. In a footnote to the Chapter "The Magic Bullet" Mr. Lane states that "President Kennedy's head exploded in a manner which lead bullets (without a metal jacket) are known to cause. He then cites the testimony (Hearings, V, 87-89) of Dr. Alfred G. Olivier, a former wounds ballistics research expert for the U.S. Army, who stated that he did not believe the type of head wound suffered by the President could have been inflicted by a copper-jacketed bullet. "After a series of tests on a reconstructed human skull," Mr. Lane writes, "he was persuaded that this case had extraordinary characteristics for which his years of experience had somehow failed to prepare him."

Naturally, for the U.S. Army does not use dumdum bullets, nor does any other civilized nation since the Geneva Treaty that outlawed them has come into effect. But the CIA does not feel bound to abide by any international convention, or any rule of civilized behavior. The dumdum assassination technique serves its purposes just fine and so it is employed, worldwide and at home, whenever the untraceable and guaranteed elimination of a leader seems required. And, since the CIA is an agency of the U.S. Government, the military doctors at Bethesda covered up by not noticing the "rectangular structure" in Kennedy's brain and the panelists by proclaiming their inability to identify it.

(to be continued)

TRILOGY OF MURDER: Addendum - Cuba, Vietnam, Oil etc. (ctd. from TL III/19)

This is the secret of secrets in the murky background of the hideous Vietnam war. Significantly, it has not been alluded to, even cautiously, in the current spate of disclosures about the real motivation and the real development of the unabashed American aggression against North Vietnam. Those brave new crusaders for the historic truth, The New York Times and The Washington Post still stick to their old policies of news-faking, news suppression and coverup concerning two essential aspects of the matter they have been given so much credit for bringing out into the open: (a) the fact that President Kennedy was murdered by the Vietnam hawks so they could indulge to their heart's content in provocation, escalation and genocide; and (b) the fact that these aggressive policies were inspired primarily by the knowledge that rich oil profits were in the making in Southeast Asia that could be reaped only if Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Indonesia etc. remained firmly under the control of puppet governments.

On the other hand, there are some indications that the fear - a fear bordering on panic - that both of these super-secrets, or at least one of them, might eventually come to light as the public disclosure of the hush-hush Pentagon papers continues, prompted the Nixon Administration's highhanded reaction to the NYT's indiscretions. Nixon and LBJ, who has now been exposed as a war criminal of the first order, have always been in the same boat, in spite of the deceptive difference in party labels, and they will sink or swim together. Precisely because this rotten government is so obviously afraid of what might yet come out if this Roman holiday goes on unchecked, it is our duty again and again to point to the true facts - all the true facts - behind the hypocritically conceived, cynically launched, barbarously conducted Vietnam war.

I was one of the first journalists anywhere in the world to call attention to the offshore oil developments in the South China Sea as the real reason behind the seemingly inexplicable tenacity of the U.S. Government in pursuing what even some enlightened minds like Senator McGovern have mislabeled a "stupid" war. Wars of conquest and plunder are seldom launched by stupid people. They are the handiwork of schemers, robbers and criminals - just the kind of people that have been governing the U.S. uninterruptedly since they murdered our last decent president, John F. Kennedy.

My article "Der totgeschwiegene Oelsee" (The Hushed-up Sea of Oil) in the weekly Die Weltwoche of Zurich (May 22, 1970), the first major exposé of the American oil industry's tremendous stake in the Vietnam war, attracted worldwide attention and was reproduced in many places, either in full or in part, including in the U.S. the magazine Atlas (October 1970) and American Report (10/16/70).

More recently, The Progressive, in its issue of April, 1971, published a roundup on the subject entitled "The Smell of Oil," which included this paragraph:

"Joachim Joesten, a writer for the respected Swiss journal Die Weltwoche, reported last year on the 'recent discoveries, purposely played down, of gigantic oil reserves' in Southeast Asian waters. 'Is the U.S. engagement in Southeast Asia strictly ideological?' he asked."

That question, of course, has since then been answered with a resounding "No" as the crassly selfish motivation of the Vietnam warmongers has come to light through publication of the "Top Secret" Pentagon study. Also, as usually happens in such cases, once the lid had been removed, a lot of fresh information on the subject has come out from a variety of sources. Several of these are quoted by The Progressive (loc.cit.), among them the following:

"Jacques Decornoy, Southeast Asia editor for the distinguished French daily Le Monde, reported in January that American oil companies are investing heavily in Indochina explorations, and wondered: 'Did oil groups receive some sort of firm assurance from Washington about the determination of the United States to "hold" Indochina, and in particular South Vietnam? One is tempted to believe so in view of all this eagerness: Oil companies had begun investing at the same time that President Nixon was promoting "Vietnamization."

(to be continued in the next issue)